

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-119. (Cancelled)

120. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing angiogenesis in a mammal ~~comprising~~ by providing within or adjacent to tissue in need thereof in said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1) polypeptide or a nucleic acid molecule encoding said polypeptide, wherein said RTEF-1 polypeptide has ~~angiogenic activity and~~ at least ~~85%~~60% sequence identity to the sequence of ~~human RTEF-1 (SEQ ID NO: 7~~Accession Number AAC50763), ~~mouse RTEF-1 (Accession Number Q62296), or chick RTEF-1 (Accession Number P48984)~~ and wherein said RTEF-1 polypeptide increases angiogenesis in said tissue of said mammal, relative to a mammal that is not administered said RTEF-1 polypeptide or said nucleic acid molecule encoding said polypeptide.

121. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 120, wherein said RTEF-1 polypeptide has at least ~~90%~~80% sequence identity to the sequence of ~~human RTEF-1~~SEQ ID NO:4~~(Accession Number AAC50763), mouse RTEF-1 (Accession Number Q62296), or chick RTEF-1 (Accession Number P48984).~~

122. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 120, wherein said RTEF-1 polypeptide

is provided to said mammal by administering to said mammal a cell, tissue, or organ that contains said polypeptide in a therapeutically effective amount.

123-125. (Cancelled)

126. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying a candidate compound for increasing angiogenesis in a mammal, said method comprising:

(a) contacting a sample comprising Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1) gene with a candidate compound; and

(b) measuring RTEF-1 gene expression or activity, wherein a candidate compound that alters RTEF-1 gene expression or activity, relative to RTEF-1 expression or activity in a sample not contacted with said candidate compound, is a candidate compound that may be useful for modulating angiogenesis in a mammal.

127. (Cancelled)

128. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying a candidate compound for increasing angiogenesis in a mammal, said method comprising:

(a) contacting Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1) polypeptide with a candidate compound; and

(b) determining whether said candidate compound alters the biological activity of said RTEF-1 polypeptide, wherein a candidate compound that increases the biological activity of said RTEF-1 polypeptide is a candidate compound that may be useful for increasing angiogenesis.

129. (Cancelled)

130. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying a candidate compound for increasing angiogenesis in a mammal, said method comprising testing the angiogenic activity of said candidate compound, wherein a compound that increases angiogenesis by at least 10% relative to a control is identified as a compound which may be useful for increasing angiogenesis.

131. (Cancelled)

132. (Currently Amended) A method of treating, ~~preventing,~~ or reducing hypoxia in a mammal at risk for or experiencing hypoxia comprising providing within or adjacent to tissue in need thereof in said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1) polypeptide or a nucleic acid encoding said polypeptide, wherein said RTEF-1 polypeptide has ~~angiogenic activity and~~ at least ~~85%~~80% sequence identity to the sequence of ~~human RTEF-1 (SEQ ID NO: 7~~Accession Number AAC50763), ~~mouse RTEF-1 (Accession Number Q62296), or chick RTEF-1 (Accession Number P48984),~~ and wherein said RTEF-1 polypeptide ~~has angiogenic activity~~ promotes angiogenesis in said tissue of said mammal, relative to a mammal that is not administered said RTEF-1 polypeptide or said nucleic acid molecule encoding said polypeptide, thereby treating or reducing hypoxia in said mammal.

133. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 132, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is an expression vector selected from the group consisting of a plasmid or a viral vector.

134. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 133, wherein said viral vector is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus, retrovirus, adeno-associated virus vector, herpes simplex virus, SV40 vector, polyoma virus vector, papilloma virus vector, ~~picornavirus vector~~, and vaccinia virus vector.

135. (Withdrawn) A kit comprising:

(a) a vector encoding a Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1) polypeptide in an amount sufficient to treat or reduce hypoxia, a composition comprising a Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1) polypeptide in an amount sufficient to treat or reduce hypoxia, or a composition that reduces the levels or activity of Related Transcriptional Enhancer Factor-1 (RTEF-1) in an amount sufficient to decrease angiogenesis; and

(b) instructions for delivery of said vector to a mammal or a tissue of said mammal for treating or reducing hypoxia, instructions for delivery of said composition to a mammal or a tissue of said mammal for treating or reducing hypoxia, or instructions for delivery of said composition to a mammal or a tissue of said mammal for decreasing angiogenesis, respectively.

136-138. (Cancelled)

139. (New) The method of claim 121, wherein said RTEF-1 polypeptide has at least

95% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

140. (New) The method of claim 139, wherein said RTEF-1 polypeptide comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

141. (New) The method of claim 132, wherein said RTEF-1 polypeptide has at least 90% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7.

142. (New) The method of claim 141, wherein said RTEF-1 polypeptide has at least 95% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

143. (New) The method of claim 142, wherein said RTEF-1 polypeptide comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

144. (New) The method of claim 120, wherein said tissue is ischemic or hypoxic.

145. (New) The method of claim 132, wherein said tissue is ischemic or hypoxic.